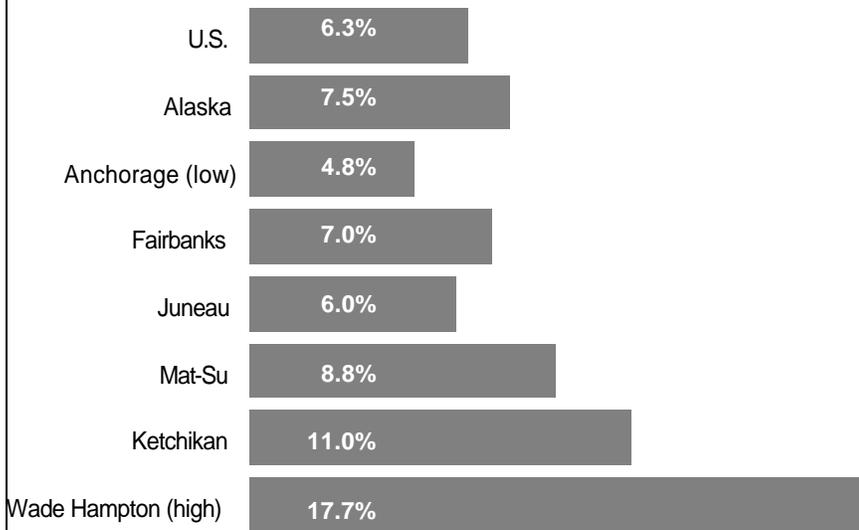


The Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Press Release

January Unemployment Rate Ties Record Low

January Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section
CA indicates census area; other areas are boroughs. All rates not seasonally adjusted

(Detailed table on reverse)

Alaska Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment

	preliminary	revised	Changes from		
	01/02	12/01	01/01	12/01	01/01
Total Nonagricultural Employment	272,000	279,800	266,200	-7,800	5,800
Mining	10,000	10,100	10,800	-100	-800
Construction	11,800	12,900	10,900	-1,100	900
Manufacturing	9,200	7,600	9,800	1,600	-600
Transportation, Commun. & Utilities	25,800	26,400	25,800	-600	0
Trade	55,000	58,300	53,400	-3,300	1,600
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	12,400	12,800	12,200	-400	200
Services & Misc.	69,600	71,300	67,300	-1,700	2,300
Government	78,200	80,400	76,000	-2,200	2,200

Government includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

Benchmark date: March 2000

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

January 2002:	Alaska 5.9%	U.S. 5.6%
December 2001:	Alaska 6.0%	U.S. 5.8%
January 2001:	Alaska 6.6%	U.S. 4.2%

Alaska's unemployment rate rose to 7.5% in January, an increase of one and three-tenths percentage points from December. Expected seasonal slowdowns in major industries drove the increase. January's rate of 7.5% ties 1999 for the lowest unemployment rate ever recorded for the month, and is significantly below the ten-year average unemployment rate for January of 8.8%. Dan Robinson, a labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, reported the numbers. The comparable national unemployment rate in January was 6.3%.

The number of unemployed Alaskans increased to about 24,200 in January, about 4,600 more than in December, but more than 2,000 fewer than in January 2001. January is typically the peak month of unemployment as the state's seasonal industries—construction, retail trade, and services, among others—reach their mid-winter low points. Initial claims for unemployment rose in January by more than 2,000, an increase of 24% over the month, though comparable to numbers from January 2001.

Most areas of the state showed higher over-the-month unemployment rates. At 4.8%, the Municipality of Anchorage had the lowest rate for the third consecutive month. The Wade Hampton Census Area recorded the state's highest rate at 17.7%.

All regions of the state had lower unemployment rates in January of this year than in January 2001. For example, the Southeast Region had an unemployment rate of 9.8% in January 2002 compared to 10.6% in January 2001, and the Gulf Coast Region's rate dropped from 13.5% in January 2001 to 12.5% in January 2002.

The seasonal slowdown was also evident in Alaska's wage and salary employment count. In all, the state lost 7,800 jobs from December to January, mostly from construction, retail trade, services, and government. The only industry that added a significant number of jobs over the month was seafood processing, where winter fisheries in the Gulf and Southwest Regions contributed more than 2,000 new jobs.

Despite January's seasonal decline, Alaska's over-the-year job growth continued at a rate of slightly more than two percent. All of that growth comes from the service-producing sector where the state has added more than 6,000 jobs in the last twelve months. In contrast, Alaska has lost approximately 300 goods-producing jobs since January 2001, a decline of slightly more than one percent.

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Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	01/02	12/01	01/01	01/02	12/01	01/01	01/02	12/01	01/01	01/02	12/01	01/01
Alaska Statewide	322,696	316,673	317,087	24,253	19,640	26,404	7.5	6.2	8.3	298,443	297,033	290,683
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	181,222	177,852	176,645	10,018	8,163	11,020	5.5	4.6	6.2	171,204	169,689	165,625
Municipality of Anchorage	148,667	146,542	146,166	7,154	5,839	7,847	4.8	4.0	5.4	141,513	140,703	138,319
Mat-Su Borough	32,555	31,310	30,479	2,864	2,324	3,173	8.8	7.4	10.4	29,691	28,986	27,306
Gulf Coast Region	31,980	30,923	32,018	3,992	3,473	4,320	12.5	11.2	13.5	27,988	27,450	27,698
Kenai Peninsula Borough	20,598	19,686	20,608	2,657	2,090	2,853	12.9	10.6	13.8	17,941	17,596	17,755
Kodiak Island Borough	6,543	6,600	6,531	735	904	783	11.2	13.7	12.0	5,808	5,696	5,748
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,839	4,637	4,879	600	479	684	12.4	10.3	14.0	4,239	4,158	4,195
Interior Region	48,549	48,827	48,046	3,874	3,044	4,165	8.0	6.2	8.7	44,675	45,783	43,881
Denali Borough	1,168	1,156	1,155	151	114	156	12.9	9.9	13.5	1,017	1,042	999
Fairbanks North Star Borough	42,673	43,013	42,171	3,007	2,363	3,210	7.0	5.5	7.6	39,666	40,650	38,961
SE Fairbanks Census Area	2,592	2,589	2,605	353	294	405	13.6	11.4	15.5	2,239	2,295	2,200
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,117	2,068	2,114	364	272	393	17.2	13.2	18.6	1,753	1,796	1,721
Northern Region	9,148	8,891	9,095	990	773	1,087	10.8	8.7	12.0	8,158	8,118	8,008
Nome Census Area	3,424	3,345	3,429	365	301	426	10.7	9.0	12.4	3,059	3,044	3,003
North Slope Borough	3,428	3,346	3,369	277	210	276	8.1	6.3	8.2	3,151	3,136	3,093
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,295	2,199	2,297	347	261	385	15.1	11.9	16.8	1,948	1,938	1,912
Southeast Region	37,525	37,659	36,898	3,686	2,930	3,916	9.8	7.8	10.6	33,839	34,729	32,982
Haines Borough	1,216	1,207	1,200	194	158	204	16.0	13.1	17.0	1,022	1,049	996
Juneau Borough	15,958	16,205	15,593	961	814	976	6.0	5.0	6.3	14,997	15,391	14,617
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,296	7,294	7,117	802	629	787	11.0	8.6	11.1	6,494	6,665	6,330
Pr.of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	3,077	3,023	3,137	516	395	641	16.8	13.1	20.4	2,561	2,628	2,496
Sitka Borough	4,075	4,119	3,959	305	250	284	7.5	6.1	7.2	3,770	3,869	3,675
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,112	2,086	2,115	342	270	390	16.2	12.9	18.4	1,770	1,816	1,725
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,488	3,422	3,478	517	373	582	14.8	10.9	16.7	2,971	3,049	2,896
Yakutat Borough	303	303	299	49	42	51	16.2	13.9	17.1	254	261	248
Southwest Region	14,274	12,523	14,385	1,694	1,259	1,895	11.9	10.1	13.2	12,580	11,264	12,490
Aleutians East Borough	1,469	1,281	1,516	96	52	153	6.5	4.1	10.1	1,373	1,229	1,363
Aleutians West Census Area	2,031	1,735	2,083	298	183	362	14.7	10.5	17.4	1,733	1,552	1,721
Bethel Census Area	5,886	5,202	5,898	594	464	644	10.1	8.9	10.9	5,292	4,738	5,254
Bristol Bay Borough	495	441	487	79	68	74	16.0	15.4	15.2	416	373	413
Dillingham Census Area	1,710	1,519	1,691	176	146	168	10.3	9.6	9.9	1,534	1,373	1,523
Lake & Peninsula Borough	597	527	593	81	65	80	13.6	12.3	13.5	516	462	513
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,085	1,817	2,119	369	281	415	17.7	15.5	19.6	1,716	1,536	1,704

Benchmark: March 2000 *Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.* • Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. • The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.